

Attorney Docket: 025251-0355925
Client Reference: UNI0003-PCT-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
GUILIN PENG, ET AL.

Confirmation Number: 7862

Application No.: ***10/584,991***

Group Art Unit:

Filed: June 29, 2006

Examiner: MUHAMMAD, Khalif R.

Title: A SAFE NETWORK PAYMENT SYSTEM AND SAFE NETWORK PAYMENT
AUTHENTICATION METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed August 19, 2008, the period for reply being September 19, 2008, Applicants hereby elects the invention of Group I, claims 1-18, drawn to an online payment system. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement because it fails to comply with M.P.E.P. §803. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25 in this application may be searched and examined without a serious burden. M.P.E.P. §803 states: "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (Underlining emphasis added)

Notably, the claims in non-elected Group II include features that substantially overlap in subject matter with features recited in the claims of provisionally elected


Group I. A search for the invention in provisionally elected Group I therefore would encompass the field of search for claims in non-elected Group II.

Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement as to Groups I – II and examination on the merits of all of claims 1-25 in this application.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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